

THE HONORABLE TANA LIN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

TAMYKA BROWN,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITIBANK, N.A.,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:25-cv-05119-TL

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

**NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR: May
23, 2025**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL

"Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged: account and contact records of any kind as to non-parties such as Earl Brown; Defendant's internal documents including policies, practices and procedures, call

1 data, and recordings; documents containing Plaintiff's, Earl Brown's or any other consumer's
 2 personally-identifiable information; Defendant's internal communications; and any personally
 3 identifying information of Defendants' employees and former employees.

4 3. SCOPE

5 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
 6 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2)
 7 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
 8 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

9 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
 10 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

11 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

12 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or
 13 produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
 14 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to
 15 the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential
 16 material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner
 17 that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

18 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by
 19 the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
 20 confidential material only to:

21 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of
 22 counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

23 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
 24 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the
 25 parties agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only
 26 and is so designated;
 27

1 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
2 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
3 (Exhibit A);

4 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

5 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
6 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging
7 service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and
8 to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

9 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
10 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
11 Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the
12 court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal
13 confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be
14 disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

15 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
16 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

17 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
18 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
19 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
20 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a
21 motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer
22 process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential
23 information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with
24 any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures
25 that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from
26 the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its
27 information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the

1 party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal
2 being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

3 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

4 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or
5 non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
6 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
7 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
8 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
9 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not
10 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

11 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
12 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
13 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary
14 expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

15 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated
16 for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other
17 parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

18 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement
19 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,
20 disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be
21 clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

22 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and
23 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
24 proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each
25 page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a
26 page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected
27 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute

1 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding
 2 confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or
 3 in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer
 4 conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action.
 5 The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith
 6 effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

7 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 8 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under
 9 Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
 10 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
 11 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
 12 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to
 13 maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

14 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
 15 LITIGATION

16 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
 17 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,”
 18 that party must:

19 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
 20 subpoena or court order;

21 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
 22 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or
 23 order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this
 24 agreement; and

25 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
 26 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

27 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

1 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
 2 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement,
 3 the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the
 4 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the
 5 protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were
 6 made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the
 7 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
 9 MATERIAL

10 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
 11 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
 12 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This
 13 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery
 14 order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties
 15 agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

16 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

17 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
 18 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts
 19 and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of
 20 destruction.

21 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
 22 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
 23 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert
 24 work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

25 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
 26 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

2 DATED: May 23, 2025

3 /s/ Justin M. Baxter

4 Justin M. Baxter, WSBA #39182

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7 Attorneys for Plaintiff

8 DATED: May 23, 2025

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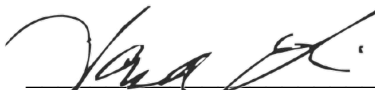
14 williamsea@ballardspahr.com

15 Attorneys for Defendant

16 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

17 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any
18 documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal
19 or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to
20 those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or
21 any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

22 DATED: May 27, 2025

23 

24 The Honorable Tana Lin

25 United States District Court Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of

_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the
case of Brown v. Citibank NA, NO. 3:25-cv-05119-TL, I agree to comply with and to be
bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that
failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I
solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to
this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the
provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated
Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

DATED: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

CERTIFICATION OF NO CHANGE FROM MODEL STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to Judge Lin's Standing Order for Civil Cases, Section III.C., the parties certify that this Stipulated Protective Order uses the exact language of the Western District of Washington's Model Stipulated Protective Order except for the specific list of documents to be designated as confidential provided in Section 2 of the order. Because this order does not depart from the model, no redline is required. LCR 26(c).

DATED: May 23, 2025

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